

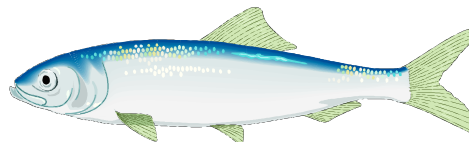
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director



Contact:
James Jackson, Area Biologist
Geoff Spalinger, Asst. Area Biologist
Brad Fuerst, Fishery Biologist
Phone: (907) 486-1830
Fax: (907) 486-1847

Kodiak Area Office
211 Mission Road
Kodiak, AK. 99615

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KODIAK COMMERCIAL HERRING SAC ROE FISHERY NEWS RELEASE # 27

The R/V K-Hi-C will be in the **Shearwater Bay Section (EA42)**, currently open to fishing with gillnet gear, and commercial herring fishing with purse seine gear could potentially open at **noon Sunday May, 13**; however, actual opening times and the area open to fishing will be made on the grounds by the department biologist.

As Previously Announced:

The following areas are **open** to **both seine** and **gillnet gear** for commercial herring sac roe fishing.

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Alitak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(NA50) Tonki Bay	40	(AL20) Inner Alitak	100	(EA21) Three Saints Bay	75
(SA10-30) Izhut, Kitoi, and MacDonalds Lagoon	100	(AL21, 22) Inner and Outer Deadman bays	400	(EA24) Barling Bay	100
		(AL30) Sulua Bay	75	(EA51) Inner Ugak	150
<u>Uganik District:</u>		(AL40) Lower Olga-Moser	50		
(UG20) Viekode Bay	25	(AL41) East Upper Olga Bay	75		
(UG31)W.Uganik Passage	50	(AL50)West Upper Olga Bay	75		

Beginning May 8, purse seine fishing periods will be **noon to 10:00 p.m. on odd-numbered days, and 9:00 a.m. to noon on even-numbered days**, followed by a 24 hour closed period.

Fishing periods for gillnet gear began at **noon, Tuesday, May 1, 2012** and remain **open until further notice.**

The following areas will open or remain open to **only gillnet gear until further notice**:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Uyak District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>	<u>Northeast District:</u>	<u>GHL</u>
(WA10) Raspberry Strait	10	(UY32) Browns Lagoon	50	(NE10) Womens Bay	50
(WA20) Malina Bay	10	(UY40) Zachar Bay	25	<u>Inner Marmot District:</u>	
(NA30) Perenosa Bay	10	(UY50) Spiridon Bay	10	(IM20) Anton Larsen	15
				(IM30) Sharatin Bay	30
		<u>Eastside District:</u>			
		(EA44) Inner Kiliuda	50		

EXPLORATORY AREAS

The following sections are designated as **EXPLORATORY**, and will be open to either gear type, with differential fishing periods by gear type as outlined above for purse seine or gillnet gear:

<u>Afognak Districts:</u>	<u>Alitak District:</u>	<u>Eastside District:</u>
(WA20) Delphin Bay	(AL60) Geese/Two Headed	(EA10) Kaiugnak Bay
(WA40) Bluefox Bay		(EA20) SW Sitkalidak
		(EA22) Newman Bay
		(EA31) Tanginak Anchorage
<u>Mainland Districts:</u>		
(NM20) Inner Kukak Bay	(MM40) Puale Bay	
(MM10) Inner Katmai Bay	(MM50) Portage Bay	
(MM30) Alinchak Bay	(SM10) Wide Bay	

Beginning May 1, all Kodiak commercial sac roe herring fishermen that wish to continue fishing must be registered with the department. Registration may be accomplished either in the Kodiak fish and game office, or with fish and game personnel when available in the field. Communication is critical to effectively manage the commercial herring fishery. **Herring fishermen will need to contact the department prior to fishing in an area and when herring are harvested. Failure to do so will result in area closures.**

The current estimate of the total harvested herring in the Kodiak Management Area is approximately 4,000 tons.

The following areas are closed to commercial herring fishing for the remainder of the season:

- The East Sitkalidak, West Sitkalidak, Outer Kiliuda Bay, and Outer Ugak Bay sections of the Eastside District.
- The Village Islands/Uganik Bay sections and the Terror Bay Section of the Uganik District.
- The Danger Bay Section of the Afognak Districts.
- The Kizhuyak Bay Section of the Inner Marmot District.

The remainder of the Kodiak Area will stay closed to commercial herring fishing for the entire sac roe season.

Guideline harvest levels and maps of open sections and gear assignments are available at the Kodiak office and in the herring sac roe fishery harvest strategy for the 2012 season. Fishermen are urged to check with their market and test their catch prior to landing herring. Determining if size or roe quality meets processor standards is the responsibility of fishermen and industry. It is anticipated that many small and green fish will be present on the grounds during the initial open fishing periods. Recent fishery information may be obtained by calling the Departments 24-hour record-a-phone at 486-4559.

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